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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Charles Q. Zhan, et al.
Serial No.: 10/717,406
Filed: November 19, 2003
For: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR IDENTIFYING
POSSIBLE DEFECT INDICATORS FOR A VALVE
Group No.: 2863
Examiner: Toan M. Le

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant submits this statement. This submittal is made in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98 and § 609 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure. The patent and patent publications herein are listed below and on the attached Form PTO/SB/08A.

| <u>U.S. Patent/Publication No.</u> | <u>Inventor</u> | <u>Date</u> |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 5,750,879 | Ohtsuka et al. | May 12, 1998 |
| 2003/0216888 A1 | Ridolfo | November 20, 2003 |
| 2004/0024568 A1 | Eryurek et al. | February 5, 2004 |

Applicant hereby expressly reserves the right to swear behind the effective dates of any of the above patents and publications and to question the relevance and materiality of the patents and publications listed herein, in whole, in part, or in combination, subsequent to filing this Information Disclosure Statement.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (e), the undersigned certifies that no item of information cited in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

Each item of information cited in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited by the Patent Office in a related application in the Office Action mailed November 22, 2004 in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/717,086.

Further, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) and the above statements, no fee is believed to be due for the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: Feb. 16, 2005

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